

## IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday September 1st, 2024

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### News from the IRTS

The next IRTS Committee meeting will take place on Thursday, September 19th at 8:00 p.m. on the Zoom platform. All IRTS affiliated clubs are reminded that under Rule 16.1, the members in each affiliated club, society or other body may elect a representative and an alternate annually to attend IRTS Committee meetings. Clubs wishing to send a representative should notify the IRTS Secretary, Owen EI4GGB at [irts\\_secretary /at/ irts.ie](mailto:irts_secretary@irts.ie) in advance to ensure notification and links are provided.

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### South Eastern Amateur Radio Group EI2WRC

Seany, Shirley, Keith, and the entire EI2WRC team extend a very warm “céad míle fáilte” to both friends old and new to come to Bagenalstown next weekend, September 7th and 8th, for a fun day out as part of the IRTS SSB Field Day contest which takes place that weekend. Whether you may be a licensed operator, 11-metre operator, a SWL, or just someone who’s interested in the hobby, you are very welcome to come along for what promises to be a fun weekend. Although the weekend is the SSB Field Day contest, it will be a very social weekend and a chance to catch up with friends. Drop by for a cup of tea and a chat! Everyone is very welcome!

On the 28th and 29th of September, EI2WRC will be active from The Waterford and Suir Valley Railway station Kilmeaden, Co. Waterford for the 2024 Railways on The Air event. Waterford Suir Valley Railway Company CLG was established to preserve and promote Waterford’s rich railway heritage. The aim to develop and operate a 10km section of the abandoned Waterford to Dungarvan railway line from Kilmeaden Station to Bilberry, Waterford City as a tourist attraction. The vision is that the area through which the railway travels will become a linear park, and the railway will service other attractions along the route, eventually extending to Waterford City and operating with a steam engine. For more information about the WSVR, please visit [www.wsvrailway.ie](http://www.wsvrailway.ie)

For more information about EI2WRC, their activities, and for contact details please see [www.searg.ie](http://www.searg.ie)

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### North Dublin Radio Club Update

The 17th and 18th of August saw the club activate its special event callsign EI0NDR/LH at the Baily Lighthouse in Howth for the International Lighthouses on the Air weekend. The station consisted of a 40-metre end-fed wire antenna along with a 2-metre vertical. For the first time also, the club operated on 4- and 6-metre bands with a homemade delta loop

antenna. Setting up started on Saturday morning at 8 a.m. with mostly calm weather conditions, with the first QSO being made within an hour of arriving.

Band conditions were favourable, especially on the forty-metre band, leading to a successful activation. The event was well-supported by both club members and numerous visitors. The weather cooperated with mostly good conditions on both days. In all, several hundred QSOs were logged using SSB, CW, and FT8 modes including several lighthouse-to-lighthouse contacts.

The club would like to extend a special thanks to everyone who supported the activation, particularly Howard Guo, EI9LC, who was the primary organizer of the weekend. The club would also like to thank the staff of Irish Lights and nearby residents for facilitating the event. Flushed with success, the club then went on to operate at a special event at Ardgillan Castle the following Sunday the 25th. As part of National Heritage Week, the club set up an amateur radio demonstration introducing visitors to the hobby and allowing them to see CW and SSB QSOs being made.

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### **Update from Collective Communication**

At Collective Communication's last activation, which was Lighthouses on the Air from Ballinacourty Lighthouse near Dungarvan, they managed to contact 38 other lighthouses and had a total of 137 contacts on the HF bands along with 26 QSOs via satellite QO-100 of which three were lighthouses. With multiple visits from friends, SWLs, licenced amateurs, and well-wishers, they relished a most enjoyable and satisfying weekend.

Next weekend, the 7th and 8th of September is Collective Communication's birthday. They are offering an open invitation to all who are interested in radio to please join them at Kilmurrin Cove on the Waterford coast as they celebrate their second birthday.

Refreshments, laughs, and radio will be the menu of the day. They will be set up with all their usual gear and mobile radio communications unit operating on both HF and satellite QO-100. If you have never had a QSO via a satellite before, this could be your chance.

As EI3CC enter their third year of existence, they view their birthday rather like walking through a doorway into a room called "The Future". Please consider joining them on their birthday or in the future. Their club secretary, John EI3HQB, will be pleased to give you details. Call him on 086 870 9265.

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### **Shannon Basin Radio Club in the SSB Field Day**

Shannon Basin Radio Club will take part in the IRTS SSB Field Day next weekend operating from the grounds of Garbally College in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. The club welcomes both members and anyone with an interest in radio and electronics to come along and join in what will be an excellent radio-related social occasion. SBRC's wonderful

annual barbeque will be hot and running all day with tasty food and refreshments. For further information, you are invited to contact the club via email to admin /at/ sbrc.ie. Further details are also available at [www.sbrc.ie](http://www.sbrc.ie)

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### **UKEICC 80m Contest Season Starting Again on Wednesday September 4th**

The first of the 2024-25 series of UKEICC 80m contests takes place on Wednesday, September 4th starting at 20:00 UTC. These are hour-long contests held on the first Wednesday using SSB and last Wednesday using CW of each month from September to April excluding December. They are popular not just for the short duration but also for the friendliness of participants. Results are available almost immediately after the one-hour deadline for log uploads, so there's no waiting for weeks or months to know how well you did. You automatically get a report usually the next day, that shows any errors you made, and this can help you improve your operating skills. The contests also feature an EI and UK bonus station, which adds 30 points to your score if you work them both. Other unique options in these contests include a team competition overlay for a 3- or 4-person team, league tables updated after every contest, and online scoreboards. The contest exchange is your six-character grid locator with signal report being optional and generally not given.

The bonus station operators on September 4th are Aidan EI8CE operating EI5G and Tim G4FJK operating G5GEI. If you would like to operate the EI5G bonus station and are a regular in these contests located in EI-land, please contact Tim EI2KA using the email address ei2ka.tim at gmail.com.

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### **Items for Inclusion in Next Week's Radio News**

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to newsteam /at/ irts.ie for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is midnight on Thursday.

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